

## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An isolated thermostable *Bacillus* delta ~~or delta prime or tau~~ subunit of a DNA polymerase III-type enzyme, the isolated delta ~~or delta prime or tau~~ subunit being encoded by a nucleic acid molecule hybridizing to the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 177 ~~or 179 or 181~~ under hybridization conditions that are at least as stringent as use of a medium comprising ~~0.9M sodium citrate buffer at a temperature of 37°C~~ 5X sodium citrate buffer and at a temperature of 65°C, followed by washing in 5X sodium citrate buffer at 65°C, wherein the encoded delta subunit can cooperate with delta prime and tau/gamma subunits to form a clamp loader complex.

2. (currently amended) The isolated *Bacillus* delta ~~or delta prime or tau~~ subunit according to claim 1 wherein the *Bacillus* species is *Bacillus stearothermophilus*.

3-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The isolated *Bacillus* delta ~~or delta prime or tau~~ subunit according to claim 1 wherein the subunit is purified.

8. (currently amended) A clamp loader complex comprising ~~at least one of the *Bacillus* delta subunit or delta prime or tau subunits~~ according to claim 1.

9. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A clamp loader complex according to claim 8 further comprising the *Bacillus* delta, delta prime, and tau subunits according to claim 1.

10. (original) A DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex comprising the clamp loader according to claim 8.

11. (original) A DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex comprising the clamp loader according to claim 9.

12. (original) A kit comprising:  
a container that contains therein either a deoxynucleoside triphosphate or a dideoxynucleoside triphosphate; and  
a container that contains therein the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex according to claim 10.

13. (original) A kit comprising:  
a container that contains therein either a deoxynucleoside triphosphate or a dideoxynucleoside triphosphate; and  
a container that contains therein the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex according to claim 11.
14. (canceled)
15. (currently amended) The isolated *Bacillus delta* ~~or delta prime or tau~~ subunit according to claim 1 wherein the delta subunit encoded by the DNA molecule is at least 95 percent identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 178
16. (currently amended) The isolated *Bacillus delta* subunit ~~DNA molecule~~ according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid ~~DNA~~ molecule is at least 95 percent identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 177.
17. (previously presented) An isolated delta subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 178.
18. (previously presented) A clamp loader complex comprising the delta subunit according to claim 17.
19. (previously presented) The clamp loader complex according to claim 18, wherein the complex further comprises a delta prime subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 180 and a tau subunit comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 182.
20. (previously presented) A DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex comprising the clamp loader according to claim 18.
21. (previously presented) A kit comprising:  
a container that contains therein either a deoxynucleoside triphosphate or a dideoxynucleoside triphosphate; and  
a container that contains therein the DNA polymerase III-type enzyme complex according to claim 20.